

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 of the TEU

Deputy Chief Negotiator

Brussels, **14 07 17**
TF50(2017) save 3894365

Ms Vicky Cann
Corporate Europe Observatory
Rue d'Edimbourg 26
B – 1050 Brussels

By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Advance copy by email: ask+request-4357-e90428b0@asktheeu.org

Dear Ms Cann,

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2017/3332

We refer to your e-mail dated 01/06/2017 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 02/06/2017 under the above mentioned reference number.

You request access to (1) a list of all lobby meetings held by staff of the Task Force with third parties since 24 June 2016 on the topic of Brexit and (2) all agendas, minutes / notes of meetings, and position papers or other briefing papers from these meetings.

Given that the Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 TEU was set up by the Commission's decision on 14 September 2016 and took up its duties on 1 October 2016, we consider your request to cover documents from the date of the establishment of the Task Force (01/10/2016) until the date of your initial application (01/06/2017 including).

The European Commission adopted a tailor-made approach to transparency for the Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom, which is explained on our webpage:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/brexit-negotiations/european-commissions-approach-transparency-article-50-negotiations-united-kingdom_en

A list of meetings held by Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier can be found on the following webpage:

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyinitiative/meetings/meeting.do?host=fa02e4e1-d738-413e-8b4e-ed8381a90e86>

In addition, as explained on our webpage, members of the Task Force are available to meet with stakeholders in order to listen and gather evidence on the social and economic impact of the UK's withdrawal. The Task Force only accepts meeting requests from organisations or individuals that are in the Transparency Register.

Please find enclosed a list of the meetings held by the members of the Task Force since its establishment on 1 October 2016 until 1 June 2017. The personal names have been blanked out in accordance with the Union legislation regarding the protection of personal data.

During all of these meetings the Commission's representatives were in listening mode and took note of the stakeholders' concerns related to the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union. There were no specific agendas for the meeting. The aim of the meetings from the Commission's point of view was to listen to evidence and collect practical examples.

The minutes of all these meetings reflect the fact that the Commission took note of the information that was shared by the stakeholders. They also include the opinions and evidence raised by the third parties, which represents know-how and commercial data of the organisations. Their disclosure is therefore prevented by the exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 (2) first indent of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

With reference to your request for the position or briefing papers from these meetings, we would like to inform you that the Commission's representatives did not share any documents with the participants of the meetings.

In many cases stakeholders shared draft papers with the Commission and they have published their final versions on their respective websites. In cases where stakeholders decided not to publish their papers but only share them with the Commission, their disclosure is prevented by the exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 (2) first indent of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. By way of example, such cases may pertain to instances where the UK's withdrawal could affect the commercial interests of legal persons that operate in cross-border supply chains.

All Commission's position papers which have been shared with the EU Member States and the EU institutions have been published on the webpage:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/brexit-negotiations/negotiating-documents-article-50-negotiations-united-kingdom_en

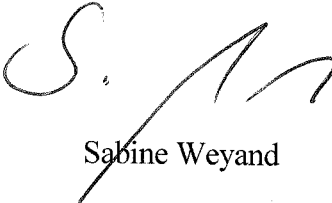
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In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretary-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission
Secretary-General
Transparency unit SG-B-4
BERL 5/282
B-1049 Bruxelles
or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,



Sabine Weyand